

# Statistics in focus

## AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

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### Agriculture

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## Farm structure in Belgium – 2005

52% of the agricultural land is in farms of 50 ha or more

*This Statistics in Focus is part of a series of country-specific publications on the results of the Farm Structure Survey (FSS) 2005. It provides a brief but nevertheless comprehensive insight into the farm structure in Belgium. A similar publication was issued in October 2004 presenting the results of the FSS 2003 in Belgium.*

\* \* \*

In May 2005 in Belgium, about **49.5 thousand\*** agricultural holdings had an economic size of at least 1 European Size Unit (ESU).

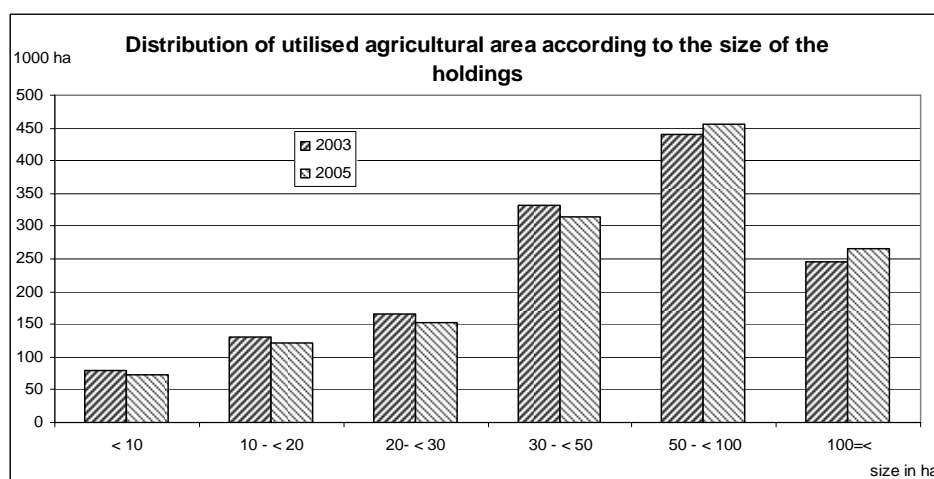
- These holdings employed 68.7 thousand AWUs (annual work units), the equivalent of 68.7 thousand persons working full time;
- they made use of about 1.4 million ha of agricultural area, which is on average **27.9 ha per holding** (compared to 26.4 ha in 2003).

Among these 49.5 thousand agricultural holdings

- 27% made use of less than one AWU, while 22% made use of 2 or more AWUs;
- 24% used less than 5 ha agricultural area, while 4% used 100 ha or more;
- 17% were holdings of the type specialist cattle rearing and fattening, 14% were specialist dairy farming, 13% were general field cropping, 11% were engaged in combined field cropping and grazing livestock, and 9% were specialist horticulture;
- 20% of their agricultural area was situated in less favoured or mountain areas;
- 1% were organic farms;
- 20% benefited from direct investment aid.

Among the 46 thousand sole holders

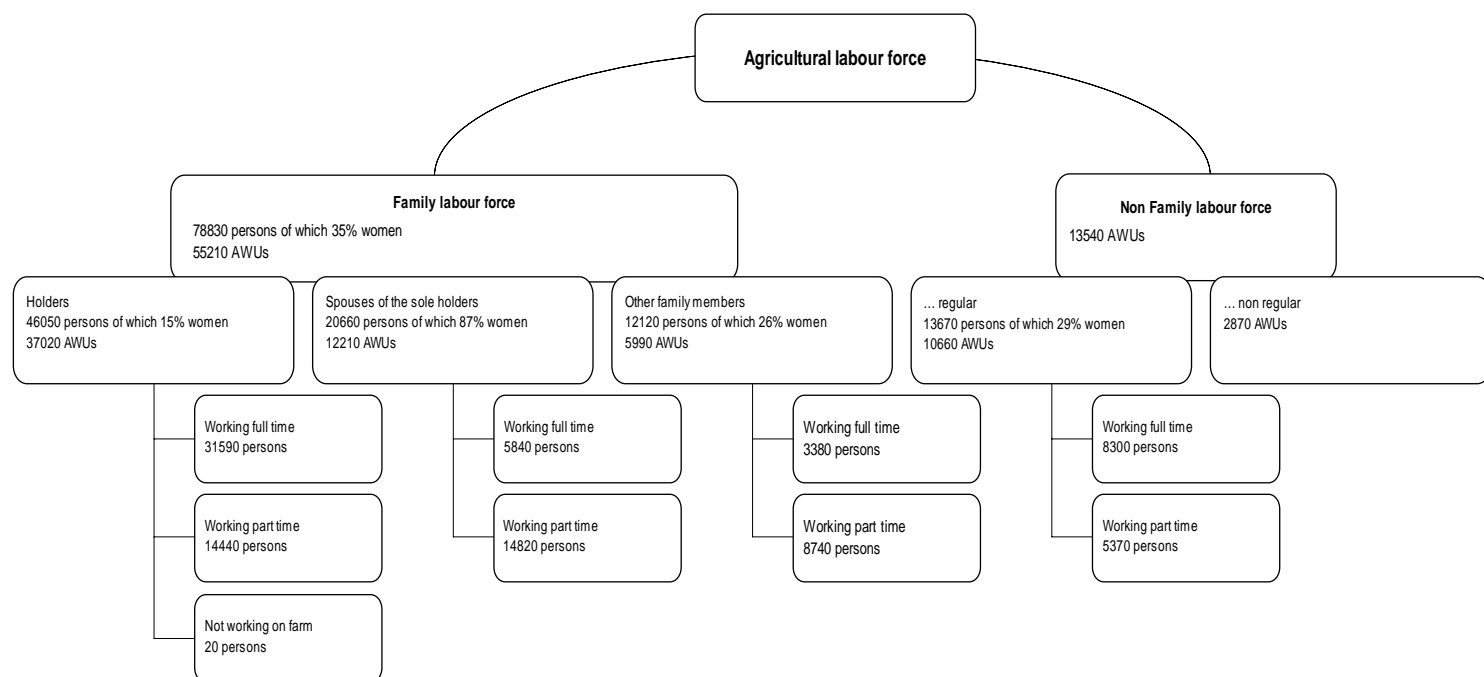
- 15% were women;
- 42% were aged 55 or more, and 7% were younger than 35 years;
- 9% had another gainful activity as their major occupation.



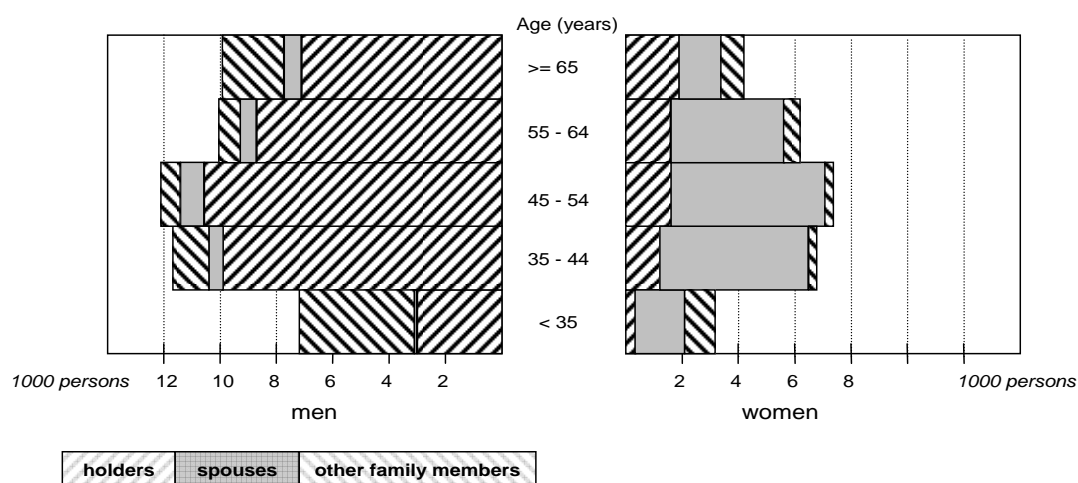
\* Due to differences in the threshold across Member States, the total number of farms is not comparable between countries. This is why the present analysis, including Tables 1-4 and the graphs focus on holdings of at least one ESU. See methodological notes for more information on the concept of the ESU.

All data concerning the size of the holdings (in ESU) and the farm type are preliminary due to only partly updated SGM values.

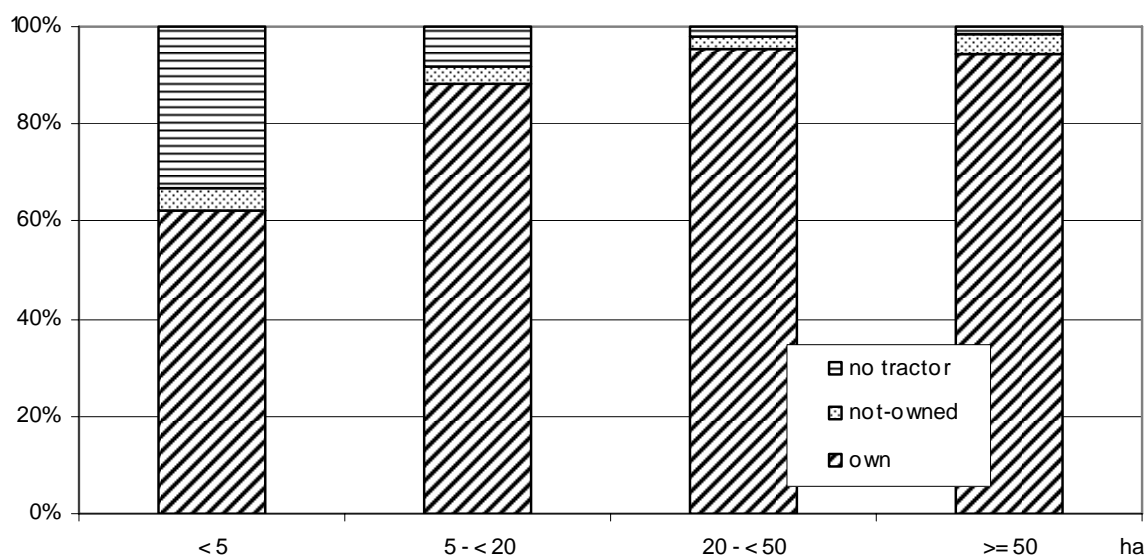
## Belgium 2005 – Holdings of at least 1 ESU



### Family labour force



### Tractor use by utilised agricultural area categories



Size of the farms	Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LU*)			
	< 5	5 - < 20	20 - < 50	50 = <		0	0 < - < 50	50 - < 100	100 = <
<b>Total labour force</b>									
1000 annual work units	14.6	17.7	21.4	15.0	68.7	20.8	16.3	11.6	20.1
<b>Family labour force</b>									
1000 persons	16.1	22.4	24.9	15.4	78.8	17.6	24.6	14.1	22.5
1000 annual work units	9.1	14.4	19.1	12.6	55.2	11.4	14.8	10.9	18.1
<b>Non-family labour regularly employed</b>									
1000 persons	6.0	3.1	2.1	2.5	13.7	8.5	1.9	0.8	2.5
1000 annual work units	4.8	2.3	1.5	2.0	10.7	6.9	1.3	0.6	1.8
<b>Non regular non family labour force</b>									
1000 annual work units	0.7	1.0	0.7	0.5	2.9	2.5	0.2	0.1	0.1
<b>Holding managers (1000)</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>49.5</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>12.1</b>
- women (%)	19.6	18.2	11.5	7.7	14.8	15.6	19.6	11.5	9.4
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	45.2	29.9	7.5	3.8	22.6	32.2	37.2	4.2	4.5
- 50 % and over(%)	11.1	13.6	7.0	4.0	9.4	9.6	14.2	5.9	4.8
- with a basic agricult. training only (%)	18.6	22.2	28.6	28.6	24.3	21.4	20.3	29.3	29.6
- with a full agricultural training (%)	16.3	16.7	31.1	39.8	24.7	24.5	13.5	31.0	36.8
<b>Sole/main holders (1000)</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>46.0</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>11.2</b>
- women (%)	19.8	18.1	10.9	7.1	14.5	15.9	19.4	11.0	8.4
- distribution by age (%)									
- under 35 years	5.3	5.2	9.3	10.2	7.3	6.6	4.0	9.3	11.5
- from 35 to 44 years	17.0	19.0	29.7	34.2	24.3	21.3	15.4	30.3	36.0
- from 45 to 54 years	21.8	23.3	30.0	32.2	26.5	23.9	22.6	31.0	31.4
- from 55 to 64 years	21.1	23.7	23.7	19.4	22.4	23.6	23.8	23.9	18.1
- 65 years and over	34.8	28.7	7.2	4.0	19.6	24.7	34.2	5.5	3.1
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	50.2	31.9	7.9	4.2	24.3	37.1	38.8	4.3	4.9
- 50 % and over(%)	12.3	14.4	7.3	4.3	10.1	11.0	14.8	6.2	5.2
- with another gainful activity <sup>1</sup> (%)	23.0	21.7	11.7	7.8	16.7	20.5	24.4	9.3	6.9
- as main occupation	16.8	13.8	3.9	1.0	9.4	12.3	16.4	2.3	1.2
- as a subsidiary occupation	6.2	7.9	7.8	6.8	7.3	8.2	8.0	7.0	5.7
<b>Spouse of sole holder working on the holding (1000)</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>7.0</b>
- women (%)	81.6	82.2	90.2	94.2	87.3	86.5	78.6	89.6	93.1
- distribution by age (%)									
- under 35 years	6.7	6.1	11.6	10.6	9.0	7.4	4.2	9.5	13.4
- from 35 to 54 years	52.1	49.5	62.4	69.7	58.5	55.3	42.8	63.4	69.8
- 55 years and over	41.1	44.5	26.0	19.7	32.5	37.3	53.0	27.1	16.7
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	50.2	52.2	40.0	32.9	43.7	44.3	59.4	42.9	31.8
- 50 % and over(%)	24.8	25.8	30.9	28.9	28.0	26.1	22.4	29.7	32.5
- with another gainful activity (%)	18.2	20.5	19.5	16.9	19.0	17.2	22.8	20.9	16.1
<b>Other members of the holder's family working on the holding (1000)</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>4.3</b>
- women (%)	33.1	26.6	25.3	21.4	25.6	31.5	24.4	23.0	24.0
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	65.6	71.4	62.4	41.9	59.2	58.9	74.0	62.3	48.3
- 50 % and over(%)	11.9	11.4	14.1	13.2	12.9	13.3	11.3	13.3	13.5
- with another gainful activity (%)	31.0	33.7	25.8	17.8	26.1	25.1	39.7	26.5	18.1

Symbols : not available 0 less than half of the unit or nil

\* LU = Livestock Unit

<sup>1</sup> Refers only to holders who are also farm managers.

Size of the farms	Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LU)			
	< 5	5 - < 20	20 - < 50	50 = <		0	0 < - < 50	50 - < 100	100 = <
<b>Holdings</b>									
- total number (1000)	11.7	15.0	14.3	8.5	49.5	12.1	17.3	8.1	12.1
- by legal personality of the holder (%)									
- sole holder	90.1	93.9	95.1	91.6	92.9	86.8	95.9	96.4	92.5
- legal person	9.9	6.1	4.9	8.4	7.1	13.2	4.1	3.6	7.5
- group holders	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
- by employed labour force (%)									
- under 1 AWU	51.0	37.3	9.9	4.1	26.9	36.3	45.4	6.0	5.1
- from 1 to less than 2 AWU	30.8	48.1	66.3	57.0	50.8	36.4	45.4	72.2	58.3
- from 2 to less than 3 AWU	10.2	10.9	20.1	31.2	16.9	14.5	7.5	19.5	31.0
- 3 AWU and over	8.0	3.7	3.7	7.7	5.4	12.8	1.6	2.2	5.7
- by economic size (%)									
- from 1 to less than 8 ESU	53.5	24.0	0.1	0.0	19.9	27.4	37.7	0.4	0.2
- from 8 to less than 16 ESU	7.7	25.5	2.3	0.0	10.2	12.5	19.6	0.8	1.0
- from 16 to less than 40 ESU	11.3	24.3	23.5	1.6	17.1	17.9	26.5	16.2	3.6
- from 40 to less than 100 ESU	14.5	14.9	54.4	37.7	30.1	21.1	12.7	71.7	36.0
- 100 ESU and over	13.0	11.3	19.7	60.7	22.6	21.2	3.5	10.8	59.2
- by farm type (%)									
- specialist cattle – rearing and fattening	17.3	22.8	12.9	13.9	17.1	0.0	32.1	17.4	12.7
- specialist dairy farming	1.8	8.6	26.9	19.4	14.1	0.0	10.8	38.6	16.6
- general field cropping	7.8	14.3	11.4	18.6	12.7	31.8	12.2	2.9	0.9
- field crops – grazing livestock combined	4.3	9.8	11.4	20.4	10.8	2.6	16.0	17.2	7.1
- specialist horticulture	26.5	6.2	1.6	0.5	8.7	29.6	3.8	0.5	0.2
- other types of farming	42.4	38.3	35.9	27.2	36.6	36.1	25.2	23.4	62.4
- by farming methods (%)									
- organic farming	0.7	0.6	1.2	2.3	1.1	0.8	1.0	1.8	1.0
- irrigating	1.3	1.3	1.1	0.9	1.2	2.6	0.6	0.5	1.0
- with fixed irrigation equipment	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
- with crops under glass	23.9	4.4	1.1	0.5	7.4	24.3	3.2	0.9	1.0
- benefiting of direct investment aids	9.9	8.5	26.4	40.8	19.5	16.6	5.7	28.0	36.5
- using a tractor (%)									
- with their own tractor	66.9	91.6	98.0	98.5	88.8	80.2	88.5	97.5	92.0
- using a combine harvester (%)									
- with another gainful activity than agricultural production (%)									
- tourism	2.5	3.9	4.7	6.3	4.2	3.6	4.5	4.8	3.9
- handicraft	0.4	0.6	0.9	1.7	0.9	0.5	0.8	1.3	0.9
- processing of farm products	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
- wood processing	0.3	0.6	1.1	1.7	0.9	0.3	0.7	1.5	1.2
- aquaculture	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
- renewable energy production	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
- contractual work	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
- other gainful activities n.a.e.	0.3	1.0	1.2	2.0	1.1	1.2	0.9	1.2	1.1
	1.5	2.1	1.7	1.6	1.7	2.0	2.4	1.3	1.0

Symbols : not available 0 less than half of the unit or nil

Size of the farm	Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LU)			
	< 5	5 - < 20	20 - < 50	50 =<		0	0 <- < 50	50 - < 100	100 =<
<b>Area</b> (1000 ha)									
<b>Total area of agricultural holdings</b>	<b>29.5</b>	<b>176.7</b>	<b>476.5</b>	<b>730.1</b>	<b>1412.7</b>	<b>220.8</b>	<b>273.7</b>	<b>333.4</b>	<b>584.8</b>
<b>Other area</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>29.2</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>9.5</b>
Wooded area	0.4	1.3	0.9	2.4	4.9	1.6	1.7	0.7	1.0
<b>Agricultural area</b>	<b>25.2</b>	<b>169.3</b>	<b>467.4</b>	<b>721.6</b>	<b>1383.5</b>	<b>214.3</b>	<b>265.8</b>	<b>328.3</b>	<b>575.3</b>
<b>Arable land</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>94.2</b>	<b>280.7</b>	<b>457.7</b>	<b>844.9</b>	<b>181.0</b>	<b>155.8</b>	<b>180.6</b>	<b>327.4</b>
Cereals	3.7	38.6	96.6	183.2	322.1	81.7	67.2	61.1	112.2
<i>Common wheat and spelt</i>	1.4	17.1	57.9	137.4	213.8	56.6	44.2	44.4	68.6
<i>Durum wheat</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Rye</i>	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
<i>Barley</i>	0.5	4.4	10.1	25.0	39.9	11.0	9.7	7.8	11.4
<i>Oats</i>	0.1	0.7	1.7	3.2	5.7	0.9	1.5	1.2	2.0
<i>Grain maize</i>	1.5	14.9	23.7	14.0	54.2	12.2	9.8	5.6	26.6
Dried pulses	0.0	0.1	0.6	1.7	2.4	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.9
Root crops	1.2	13.8	47.9	91.4	154.3	42.4	32.3	30.8	48.7
<i>Potatoes</i>	0.6	6.6	21.7	36.0	64.9	17.8	13.2	11.6	22.3
<i>Sugar beet</i>	0.4	6.3	24.5	54.3	85.5	24.4	17.9	18.1	25.0
<i>Fodder root</i>	0.2	0.9	1.7	1.1	3.8	0.2	1.2	1.1	1.4
Industrial crops	0.1	1.7	7.8	32.4	42.0	16.0	7.9	7.8	10.3
<i>Tobacco</i>	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
<i>Hops</i>	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
<i>Cotton</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Rape and turnip</i>	0.0	0.1	0.6	4.9	5.6	2.2	0.7	0.8	1.9
<i>Sunflower</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Soya</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Fresh vegetables, melons, strawberry	2.1	6.8	12.8	18.7	40.4	15.8	7.6	5.2	11.8
<i>outside</i>	1.1	6.5	12.7	18.7	39.0	14.7	7.4	5.1	11.7
<i>under glass</i>	1.0	0.3	0.1	0.0	1.4	1.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Flower and ornamental plants	1.1	0.6	0.1	0.2	2.0	1.7	0.2	0.0	0.0
<i>outside</i>	0.6	0.5	0.1	0.2	1.3	1.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
<i>under glass</i>	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Forage plants	3.4	31.0	110.2	106.7	251.2	11.6	35.4	70.1	134.2
Fallow land	0.7	1.4	4.0	21.5	27.7	10.2	4.5	4.7	8.2
<b>Kitchen garden</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Permanent pasture and meadows</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>66.7</b>	<b>179.5</b>	<b>259.9</b>	<b>517.5</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>107.9</b>	<b>147.2</b>	<b>247.4</b>
<b>Permanent crops</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Fruit and berry plantation	0.8	6.7	6.0	2.9	16.4	14.2	1.4	0.4	0.4
Citrus plantation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Olive trees	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Vineyard	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Ratios</b>									
<b>Agricultural area per holding</b> (ha)	<b>2.2</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>32.7</b>	<b>84.6</b>	<b>27.9</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>40.3</b>	<b>47.6</b>
<b>Agricultural area...</b> (%)									
... own farmed	69.7	44.9	31.2	28.2	32.0	36.0	36.3	28.3	30.5
... in less favoured or mountain area	7.0	10.1	14.4	26.4	20.0	3.1	14.4	22.2	27.7
... organic farmed	0.6	0.5	1.1	2.0	1.5	0.5	1.5	2.1	1.5
... irrigated	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.2

Symbols : not available

0 less than half of the unit or nil

Size of the farm	Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LU)		
	< 5	5 - < 20	20 - < 50	50 = <		0 < - < 50	50 - < 100	100 = <
<b>Total livestock</b> (1000 LU)	<b>557.7</b>	<b>775.2</b>	<b>1437.1</b>	<b>1112.9</b>	<b>3882.8</b>	<b>304.1</b>	<b>594.6</b>	<b>2984.1</b>
of which grazing (%)	8.9	31.1	53.0	80.9	50.3	96.0	91.8	37.4
<b>Grazing livestock</b> (1000 heads)								
<b>Equidae</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>32.7</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>5.7</b>
<b>Bovine animals</b>	<b>79.1</b>	<b>336.7</b>	<b>1027.0</b>	<b>1254.9</b>	<b>2697.7</b>	<b>368.1</b>	<b>721.4</b>	<b>1608.2</b>
Under 1 year	53.7	121.0	272.7	339.2	786.7	86.0	169.5	531.3
From 1 to less than 2 years	7.9	59.8	199.6	252.4	519.6	73.8	141.4	304.4
Dairy cows	1.6	41.8	270.5	235.5	549.3	55.9	198.6	294.9
Other cows	10.0	71.5	167.7	284.8	533.9	99.8	125.5	308.6
Other bovine animals 2 years and older	5.9	42.6	116.5	143.1	308.1	52.6	86.4	169.1
<b>Sheep</b>	<b>37.0</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>34.0</b>	<b>27.3</b>	<b>148.3</b>	<b>90.7</b>	<b>28.0</b>	<b>29.6</b>
<b>Goats</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>26.2</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>7.9</b>
<b>Granivores</b>								
<b>Pigs</b> (1000 heads)	<b>1326.0</b>	<b>1804.9</b>	<b>2464.6</b>	<b>722.7</b>	<b>6318.2</b>	<b>46.2</b>	<b>192.5</b>	<b>6079.5</b>
Piglets < 20 kg	301.8	493.1	677.0	189.4	1661.3	25.1	81.2	1555.0
Breeding sows	96.3	169.6	257.5	69.2	592.5	7.1	31.3	554.2
Other pigs	927.9	1142.3	1530.1	464.1	4064.3	14.0	80.0	3970.3
<b>Poultry</b> (million heads)	<b>15.7</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>35.6</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>34.5</b>
Broilers	7.6	5.6	4.7	3.2	21.1	0.2	0.4	20.4
Laying hens	7.6	3.1	2.0	0.5	13.3	0.1	0.2	13.0
Other poultry	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.1	1.2	0.0	0.0	1.1
<b>Rabbits, breeding females</b> (1000 heads)	<b>14.8</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>27.7</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>2.5</b>
<b>Beehives*</b> (1000)	<b>1.8</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>
<b>Average size of herds**</b>								
Equidae (head/holding)	3.9	6.2	6.1	5.2	5.5	5.6	6.5	4.6
Cattle (head/holding)	24.2	39.1	89.4	176.3	88.5	26.8	92.7	179.0
Dairy cows (head/holding)	4.7	16.2	35.6	50.3	36.2	15.5	36.4	48.2
Other cows (head/holding)	4.5	11.7	24.0	53.6	25.9	10.2	26.4	50.2
Sheep (head/holding)	30.0	43.6	43.0	55.3	40.5	36.6	61.4	40.8
Goats (head/holding)	7.6	32.5	45.4	12.2	26.2	16.7	43.4	36.7
Pigs (head/holding)	1026.3	801.5	776.5	725.6	819.1	53.9	188.7	1041.5
Breeding sows (head/holding)	167.7	122.2	112.8	114.6	122.2	16.6	51.5	145.4
Other pigs > 20 kg (head/holding)	743.5	537.8	500.0	488.5	550.6	20.4	86.1	688.3
Rabbits, breeding females (head/holding)	65.4	35.7	27.3	19.4	40.9	46.0	32.3	27.1
Laying hens (1000/holding)	6.8	2.5	2.0	0.8	3.3	0.0	0.4	12.0
Broilers (1000/holding)	23.2	17.3	14.2	11.7	16.8	0.7	2.7	25.6
Beehives (hive/holding)	15.1	7.4	6.4	7.3	11.1	8.7	6.5	7.1

Symbols : not available 0 less than half of the unit or nil

\* Bees are not taken into account when calculating Livestock Unit, there are 16.4 thousand hives on holdings with 0 LU.

\*\* Number of animals of a given livestock category per holding with this kind of animal.

		Absolute figures			% of total	
		Total	< 1 ESU	>= 1 ESU	< 1 ESU	>= 1 ESU
Regular labour force	(1000 persons)	95.0	2.5	92.5	2.6	97.4
Regular labour force	(1000 AWU)	66.7	0.8	65.9	1.3	98.7
Holders	(1000 persons)	48.0	1.9	46.0	4.0	96.0
... at least 65 years old		10.1	1.1	9.0	10.9	89.1
... having another gainful activity		8.2	0.5	7.7	6.6	93.4
<b>Number of holdings</b>	<b>(1000)</b>	51.5	2.0	49.5	3.9	96.1
... producing mainly for own consumption		:	:	:	:	:
... producing mainly for direct sales		:	:	:	:	:
... using a tractor		44.9	0.9	44.0	2.1	97.9
Standard Gross Margin (SGM)	(1000 ESU)	3317.1	1.2	3316.0	0.0	100.0
<b>Agricultural area</b>	<b>(1000 ha)</b>	1385.6	2.0	1383.5	0.1	99.9
... owned farmed		443.9	1.5	442.4	0.3	99.7
<b>Livestock</b>	<b>(1000 LU)</b>	3884.6	1.7	3882.8	0.0	100.0

Symbols : not available 0 less than half of the unit or nil

## ► METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The survey on the structure of agricultural holdings in Belgium was carried out in May 2005 on an exhaustive basis. Such full-scale agricultural censuses have been conducted on an annual basis since 1960. The reference date of the FSS 2005 was 1 May 2003, however for farm labour force and under cover cropping the reference period was the preceding 12 months.

The FSS relates to agricultural holdings whose utilised agricultural area is one hectare or more and those whose area is less than one hectare if they produce a certain proportion for sale or if their production unit exceeds certain physical thresholds. The target population was all the farms with an operating base located in Belgium.

For each activity ('enterprise') on a farm (for instance wheat, dairy cow or vineyard), a standard gross margin (SGM) is estimated, based on the area (or the number of heads) and a regional coefficient. The sum of such margins in a farm is its economic size, expressed in European Size Units (ESU). 1 ESU is equal to 1200 euros.

Each farm is classified in the community typology by its economic size and its type of farming, depending on the share of each enterprise in its economic size. For instance, a farm where breeding sows account for more than 2/3 of the economic size, is classified as *specialist pig rearing* (type 5011). Depending on the level of aggregation, farms are grouped into 8 to 70 types.

*In this publication all data concerning the size of the holdings (in ESU) and the farm type are preliminary due to only partly updated SGM values.*

Annual work unit (AWU) is equivalent to a worker employed on a full time basis for one year. In Belgium it is 1800 hours (225 working days of 8 working hours per day).

Livestock Unit (LU) is equivalent to a dairy cow. The number of animals (number of heads) is converted into LU using a set of coefficients reflecting the feed requirements of the different animal categories.

Subsistence farming refers here to all farms below 1 ESU economic size. Note that the number of farms cannot be compared between countries due to the differences in coverage of FSS.

## ► REFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

*Summary provisional data, September 2005, Direction Générale Statistique et Information Economique, Bruxelles, 2006*

*Recensement agricole 2005, Direction Générale Statistique et Information Economique, Bruxelles, 2006*















*Website of the Direction Générale Statistique et Information Economique: [www.statbel.fgov.be](http://www.statbel.fgov.be)*

*National Methodological Report – FSS 2005 (available on request)*

## Further information:

Data: [EUROSTAT Website/Theme: Agriculture and Fisheries/Data](#)

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